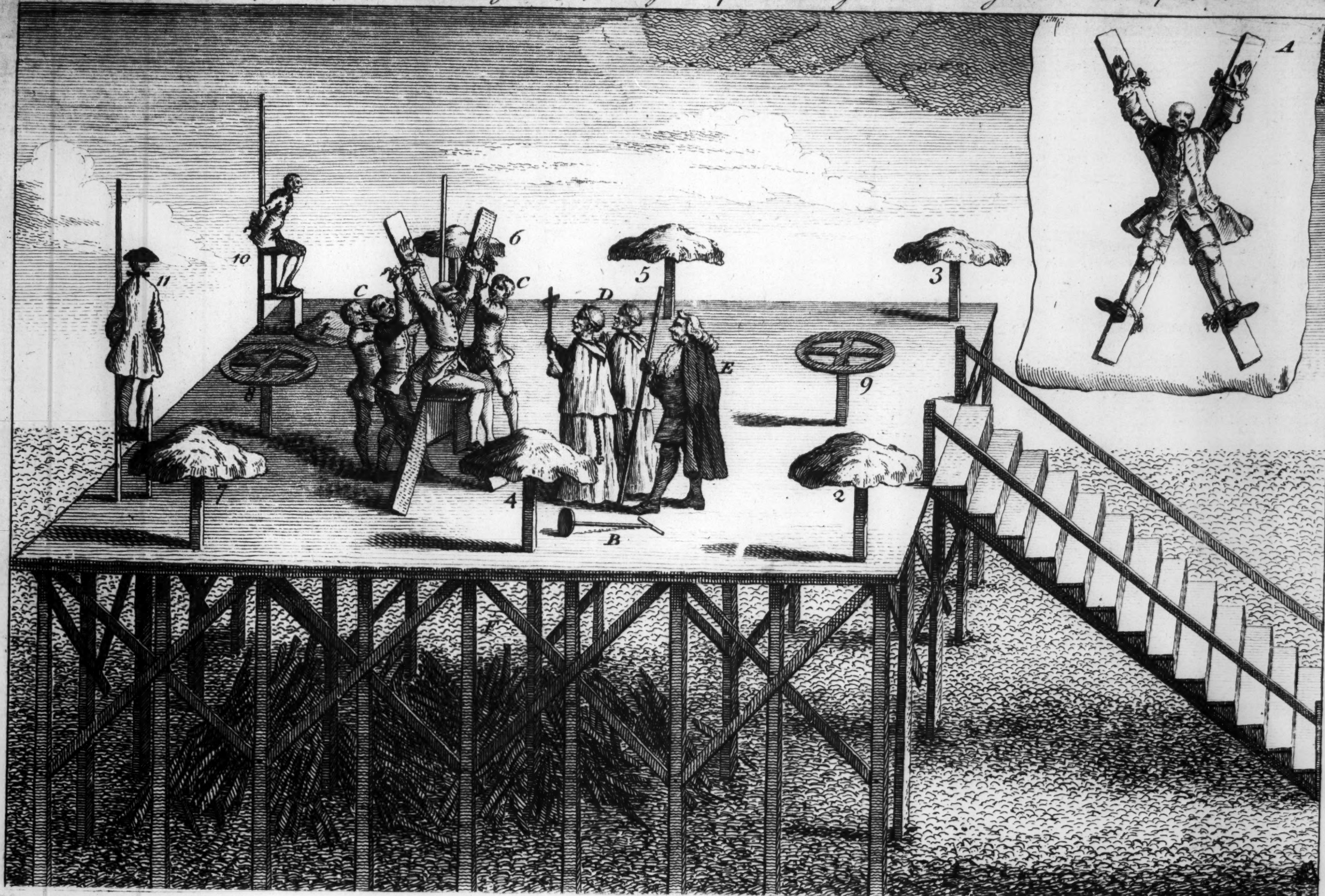




An Authentic Account of several Curious and Interesting Particulars in relation to the late CONSPIRACY against the KING of PORTUGAL; with a Circumstantial Narration of the Behaviour of the principal Conspirators at the Place of Execution, Jan. 13, 1759.

ABOUT ten at night, on the 3d of September last, as the King of Portugal, after having been to pay a visit, was returning to the Royal Palace at Belem, a Nobleman of the first quality being in the calash along with him, he was attacked in the close road, about three quarters of an English mile from that place, by three armed men in disguise; one of which, bolting suddenly from behind some trees, discharged a blunderbuss, loaded with slugs; full in the back of the carriage; by which the King was desperately wounded in the arm, and the nobleman, who sat by him, in two or three different places; but, having the presence of mind to couch down in the bottom of the machine, which was very large, they sheltered themselves from the succeeding shot, and so escaped otherwise inevitable death. For, almost instantly after the first fire, three blunderbusses were discharged at once, which went through and through the calash on every side, killing the coachman upon the spot, and wounding the postilion and one of the mules. After this the assaulters, favoured by the darkness, or rather dusk, got near off.

As a kind of testimony of joy when his Majesty's recovered, the English factory gave a ball, to which most of the Portuguese nobility were invited; and, among the rest, the Duke d'Aveiro, his Dutcheis, and Son. About one the next morning the company broke up; and, as precedence is greatly minded in Portugal, nobody would presume to stir till the Duke was gone. But how were some of the company surprized, when, coming to the outward door soon after, in order to go home, they were denied permission; and, looking a little closer, saw all the avenues full of troops? The Duke d'Aveiro, his Dutcheis, and Son, were arrested, and nobody was suffered to stir out till after they had been safely lodged in prison.

In the afternoon all the Colleges of the Jesuits were surrounded by troops. Ten of the principal of that order, who were instigators of this horrible affair, are prisoners; and, it is supposed, they will be executed, after a licence is procured from Rome for disrobing them.

The account of the discovery of this confederacy is as follows:

The Duke d'Aveiro and his two brave's, having, as they thought, executed their horrid design, immediately made off towards Lisbon, where they came to the house of one of the ruffians. His wife seeing the Duke, and having her brother (a glover in the town) with her at that moment, thrust him into the closet of the room, where she then was, and the conspirators immediately after entered. Her hurry and fright were so great, for it seems this had been a usual place of meeting (though it seems that she was totally ignorant of their secrets) that the poor woman did not know what she was doing. Here this glover remained during the rest of the night, and to this insignificant fellow was owing the discovery of the conspirators; for the Duke began to talk of their exploit and designs with the utmost freedom; the Duke said in particular, "That his mind misgave him, they had not dispatched the King quite;" but the other two said, "They were sure he could not escape." "Aye, answered the Duke, with an oath, but we should not have left the place till we had ocular demonstration of his being dead."

The fellow thought that the discourse he had heard was very extraordinary, yet he did not know what to make of it: But coming into town afterwards, and hearing the rumour that flew about of his Majesty's having been assaulted, &c. he put all things together, and went directly to the Secretary of State with an information; and this evidence being corroborated by certain advice that the King received from other hands, every thing was regulated accordingly.

The prisoners were disposed of, upon being seized, in the following manner: The Duke d'Aveiro with his Son, as well as the Marquis de Tavora with his two Sons, and the Count d'Attouguia, his Son-in-law, were all prisoners in the castle of Belem, and loaded with irons. Their food was nothing

but bread and water; and they were each of them put to the rack six times. All the relations of the principal conspirators were seized, but they were not all treated with the same rigour. Some of them were allowed to have their ordinary domesticks, and were neither guarded nor bolted. Don Manuel de Caltoris and Antonio de Costa are in St. John's Tower. The old Marchioness de Tavora was closely shut up in the Convent de Grilles, till two days before her execution, when she was brought to the Castle where her sons and her husband were, but she was not suffered to see or speak to either. The Dutcheis d'Aveiro is in the Convent de Madre de Dio, with her Daughters.

At Belem, on the Key, just over-against the Royal Palace, was a stage erected, about twice as high as a man: there were stairs on one side to ascend. There might be 70,000 spectators; and the scaffold was surrounded both by horse and foot, all with their bayonets fixed; and, on Saturday, January the 13th, just as the clock struck nine, the tragedy began.

The Marchioness de Tavora was the first who suffered; and though the Cattle was but a little way off, she was brought to the place of execution in a covered waggon. She was reported to have lost her senses. Her arms were tied down with a common rope; she was a very tall woman, and might be, as near as could be guessed, fifty years old. When she ascended the scaffold, there was a horrid shout from the populace; and, at the same time, the executioner placed a stool in the front for her to sit down on; instead of which she immediately fell on her knees, and continued bowing her body backwards and forwards for about five minutes in great disorder. She had a kind of white hood on her head, very much soiled, a black mantle over her shoulders, and her gown was of a redish colour. The executioner made a signal to the two men who guarded her, upon which they took her up, and placed her on the stool, seemingly with some difficulty. Here she was tied, and her hood and mantle being taken off, the executioner laying hold of her hair, with one blow of a large back-sword, almost cut off her head; I say almost, for it hung upon her breasts, and afterwards fell from thence into her lap. Now there was another loud shout, and the body was taken up, laid upon the stage, and covered with a black cloth, N^o 1.

The second person brought to the scaffold was Joze Maria de Tavora, youngest son to the Marquis and Marchioness de Tavora, a youth of beautiful face, agreeable deportment, and amiable disposition. He was conducted on the scaffold between two friars, and seated to a stake in form of St. Andrew's cross, in the manner as shewn on the stage; and, being first strangled, an executioner broke his arms and legs with eight blows, and his mangled body was laid on the wheel N^o 2, and covered with black cloth.

The Count of Attouguia had been in an high fever for some days; he was conducted, executed, and laid on the wheel N^o 3, in the same manner as the former.

The fourth person executed was Luez Bernardo de Tavora, the eldest son of the Marquis and Marchioness, and called the young Marquis de Tavora. He was aged 35, and behaved with great intrepidity. He was executed exactly as the two last mentioned, and his body laid on the wheel N^o 4.

Maravel Alvarez, and Joas Miguel, servants to the Duke of Aveiro, were next executed. They behaved frantically, struggling with the officers, and making a great noise. After being strangled, they were taken from the cross, laid on the stage, and their bones so mashed with eight blows, that it was with difficulty the three executioners placed their mangled bodies on the wheels 5 and 6.

The seventh was Braz Joze Romeiro, an officer of horse, and a long time servant to the Marquis of Tavora. He was executed in the same manner as the two latter, and his body placed on the wheel N^o 7.

The old Marquis of Tavora was broke on the wheel alive; he had received the rack so often, that he was hardly able to get up the stairs. He came to the place of execution in an open cart with the Duke d'Aveiro, who remained in it, at the

foot of the scaffold, while the other was dispatched before his eyes. After they had taken the ropes from his arms, and the irons from his legs, in order to fix him to the cross, he went towards the cloths on the wheels, and lifted them up every one; but, when he came to his younger son's body, he kneeled down, kissed the corpse, and wept aloud; he then spoke something to the executioner, and took hold of the iron crow with which he was to be broke. The executioner seemed to shew him some respect. He was then tied to the cross, as shewn in the corner of the plate at A. In that manner he was laid on the stage; and, after breaking his right arm, an herald proclaimed his crime. His shrieks, which would have pierced the hardest heart, did not cease for near a quarter of an hour, till he received the coup de grace. His body was placed on the wheel N^o 8.

The ninth was Joseph Mascaranhas, Duke of Aveiro. His hands were instantly chopped off, under a supposition that he had fired one of the blunderbusses at the King: then he was tied to the cross in the same manner as the Marquis, where he languished an hour and a quarter, receiving eight strokes. In about half an hour his face became totally black, and his screams at every stroke were enough to frighten one. With the last stroke they broke his belly, and his bowels came out; then he was laid on the wheel, N^o 9.

After this two men came upon the stage with tools, and fixed up a couple of stakes, with pitched seats, and a quantity of fuel was brought, to burn the Duke of Aveiro's bravo, who had shot the King. He mounted in a pitched coat; and, being forced to sit down to the stake, N^o 10, to which he was chained, the bodies were brought, one by one, and placed round him, being all strewed over with rosin about an inch thick. The effigy of another of the Duke's servants, who had escaped, was fastened to the stake, N^o 11. Then the faggots were laid on, and fire set to that part of the stage where the bravo was fixed, who saw the clouds of smoke ascend around him with surprising resolution; not so much as moving or crying till the flames reached him; then his violent struggles and frightful cries were greatly affecting to the spectators. After the scaffold and the bodies were consumed, the ashes were swept up, and thrown into the Tagus.

REFERENCES.

1. The body of the Marchioness of Tavora.
 2. The body of her youngest son.
 3. The Count of Attouguia.
 4. The young Marquis of Tavora.
 5. The body of Maravel Alvarez.
 6. The body of Joas Miguel.
 7. Braz Joze Romeiro.
 8. The wheel on which the body of the Marquis of Tavora was placed.
 9. The wheel on which the body of the Duke of Aveiro was placed.
 10. The Duke of Aveiro's bravo fixed to his stake.
 11. The Effigy of another of the Duke's servants, who had escaped.
- A The Marquis of Tavora as fastened on the cross on which his limbs were broke alive.
B The instrument of iron with which the criminals limbs were broken.
C C The three executioners.
D The two friars, who attended.
E An officer of justice.

During the time of the execution, all the conspirators' houses were pulling down to the ground; and, as soon as the rubbish can be removed, the places on which they stood will be sown with salt. All those of their families, which shall be spared, will be obliged to change their names; for the conspirators were degraded from their honours the day before they suffered, and their estates were publicly sold by auction.